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LIFE AND TRANCE

OF

DR. GEORGE DE BENNEVILLE,

OF GERMANTOWN, PA.

An account of what he saw and heard during a trance of forty-two hours, both in the regions of happiness and misery; together with a short account of his cruel persecutions in France for preaching the Gospel. Translated from the French of his own manuscript.

N. BERTOLET GRUBB,
SCHWENKSVILLE, PENNA.
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R. M. J. May 12, '14

NOTE.

The following reprint of the Life and Trance of Dr. George De Benneville is made pursuant to the request of many sincere admirers of Dr. B. For a time no English Version of the work could be obtained, but after long and faithful research we succeeded in tracing a copy of the original translation from the French manuscript in the possession of the Rev. Richard Eddy, of Melrose, Mass., who very kindly favored us with the loan of the same, and to whom we hereby acknowledge our hearty thanks. Our thanks are also due to Abraham H. Cassel, antiquarian, of Harleysville, Pa., for information given of the existence of the copy. However, copies of a German translation from the English were accessible, but a re-translation might have changed materially the spirit of the work. The book is commended to the earnest consideration of the reader by The Publisher.

PREFACE.

I Bless God that I was ever acquainted with DR. GEORGE DE BENNEVILLE, for such an humble, pious, loving man I have scarcely ever seen in my pilgrimage through life. To such as consider this account as romantic, absurd, and inconsistent, I shall only say, "that if they had known the author as well as I did, I doubt not they would have thought of him in a good measure as I do." I think it impossible that a man of his piety, humility, benevolence, and universal good character, should have been guilty of deliberately imposing upon mankind; and from the very nature and circumstances of the case, I cannot see how it is possible that he should be imposed upon himself. I have no doubt of the truth of this relation myself, and have delivered it faithfully as I received it. I consider myself hastening to the bar of God, where I expect very shortly to give up my account to the Judge of all the earth, and therefore God forbid that I should ever practice deceptions or impositions on my fellow creatures.

ELHANNAN WINCHESTER.

LIFE AND TRANCE
OF
DR. GEORGE DE BENNEVILLE.

I, George De Benneville, was born in London, July 26th, 1703. My father George De Benneville was a French refugee, persecuted for his religion. He retired with his family and connections into England upon the invitation of His Majesty King William, who took a tender care of them, and employed them at his court.

My mother was of the Granville family. She had nine children in five years after marriage, having twins four years successively, I being the last, and she died as soon as I was born. She knew that she should die at that time, and therefore she was very often drawn, whilst she was pregnant, to pray for me, and it appears that the Lord heard her prayers and granted her requests.

I was also very young when my father died, and was brought up by one of my uncles. After the death of my mother, Queen Anne herself provided me a nurse, and she had the care of my first years.

When arrived at the age of twelve years, I was very wild, believing myself to be of a different mass from mankind in general, and by this fond imagination I was self-exalted, and believed myself to be more than other men: but God soon convinced me to the contrary.

As it was designed that I should learn navigation, I was sent to sea in a vessel of war belonging to a little fleet bound to the coast of Barbary with presents, and to renew the peace with Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. Having arrived at Algiers, as I walked upon deck I saw some Moors who brought refreshments to sell. One of them slipped down and tore a piece out of one of his legs. Two of his companions having laid him on deck, each of them kissed the wound, shedding tears upon it, then turning towards the rising of the sun, they cried in such a manner that I was moved with anger at their making such a noise, and ordered my waiter to bring them before me. Upon demanding the reason of their noise, they perceiving that I was angry, asked my pardon, and told me the cause was owing to one of their brothers having hurt his leg by a fall, and that they kissed the wound in order to sympathize with him, and likewise shed tears upon it and took part with him, and as tears were saltish, they were a good remedy to heal the wound; and the reason of their turning towards the sun's rising was to invoke Him who

created the sun to have compassion upon their poor brother, and to pray that he would be pleased to heal him. Upon that I was so convinced, and moved within, that I thought my heart would break, and that my life was about to leave me; my eyes were filled with tears, and I felt such an internal condemnation, that I was obliged to cry out and say, "Are these Heathens? No: I confess before God they are Christians, and I myself am a Heathen!" Behold the first conviction that the grace of our Sovereign Good employed: he was pleased to convince a white person by blacks, one who carried the name of a Christian by a Pagan, and who was obliged to confess himself but a Heathen. But that was soon overcome and forgotten. But God who always seeks to convince and save his poor creatures, did not leave his poor wandering sheep. Some time after my return home, being present by invitation at a ball, and having overheated myself, I ordered my servant to prepare linen for me to change, and as I was putting it on, I fell into a fainting fit, and had a vision of myself, burning as a fire-brand in hell, and coming to myself again, I cried out. "I am damned!" Prayers were desired in the French churches for one who had lost his senses and was melancholy. The ministers often visited me and would fain have made me believe that I had not committed any very great sins, and

that I had behaved according to my rank and station. Then I was obliged to answer them, that if they had no other things than those to tell me, they could answer no purpose but as fig-leaves to cover my shame, and my damnable estate; that it was in vain to come and visit me with such comfort, for that I felt myself condemned. Then they answered me in another manner than before, saying, that since I would not receive their remonstrances it might be looked upon as a mark that peradventure I was destined from the beginning to condemnation

Then they gave me up, and came no more to visit me. After that I continued in the state of condemnation during the space of fifteen months, believing that all the world but myself might be saved, and that I never could be saved, because my sins, as I thought, were too many and too great to be forgiven. At length after the fifteen months had expired, after having passed through many temptations, it happened to me one day, having laid myself down to repose, that I was awakened out of my sleep and heard a voice within me, which pronounced the sentence of my condemnation, and left me no room to hope. I then discovered the root of all my sins and iniquities within my heart. That discovery brought me into an extreme agony, despair entered into my soul which was now pressed on all sides with misery caused especi-

ally by such great unbelief and hardness of heart, which was the most insupportable of all my troubles; I could discover no remedy for my diseases, but thought that my sentence of damnation was going to be executed; the sorrow of my soul was even to death; I desired to die, but death fled from me; I could find no remedy but to leave myself to the justice of my judge, for a condemned criminal as I was, I knew that his judgments were just, and that I had merited much more than I felt.

Thus abandoning myself to justice, and waiting for its accomplishment in me, I discovered between justice and me, the criminal, one of a most majestic appearance, whose beauty, brightness and grandeur, can never be described. He cast a look of grace and mercy upon me, and such a look of love as penetrated through me—the fire of which so embraced my soul that I loved him again with the same love. He persuaded me in my heart that he was my Saviour, mediator, and reconciliator, and while I thought thereon, he began to intercede for me in this manner, saying, "My father, behold me with thy paternal regard. I have made expiation for this sinner, who hath received in himself the sentence of condemnation. I have taken human nature for him. I have suffered all kind of ignominy for him. I have shed my blood even to the last drop for him. I have suffered the

shameful death of the cross for him. I have descended into the abyss of hell for him, that I might deliver him. I have been put to death for his offences and raised again for his justification, and where his sins abound, our grace abounds much more. O my Heavenly Father, pardon this poor sinner, and cause thy mercy to come to him." The judge or justice had nothing more to say. The sentence disappeared. Then I heard his eternal, universal voice which penetrated through me with divine power, saying, "Take courage my son, thy sins are forgiven thee." Immediately all the burden of my sins and iniquities was gone, all the stings and reproaches ceased in a moment, a living faith came in their stead, and the tears of sorrow were all wiped from my eyes I cast myself at the feet of my mediator, reconciler, saviour, and intercessor, and embraced him with an enlivening faith, melting into tears of love, humility, and nothingness.

O my Lord and my God, thou hast saved me through pure grace; what shall I render to Thee for all Thy benefits? O my divine love, whom I honor and dore, give me a pure, a holy heart filled with thy virtues and thy love, even such as thou wouldst that I should have, and renew a right spirit within my breast. Now I know that thy marvellous mercy hath given me a Saviour before I knew my danger and slavery;

a physician who had the care of my disease before I felt or knew the same; a Redeemer who undertook to pay the debt that I was neither willing nor able to pay. Oh! my Benefactor, guide me by the efficacy of Thy spirit to walk in the way of Thy truth and universal love. Teach me Thy eternal and universal word; speak my Lord and my God, for thy servant heareth. Give me Thy grace, oh my divine love, that I may have the eyes of my faith fixed constantly upon Thee, and that I may follow Thee whithersoever Thou mayst please to lead me; that Thy holy will may be accomplished in time and eternity, to the praise of Thy glory, and my complete salvation.

O my dear soul, sink thyself down into nothingness and the deepest humiliation, and adore in spirit and in truth. Honor the ocean of love, and the great wonders of the wisdom and power of thy God, who has employed all these boundless, incomprehensible miracles to restore and to save thee, and not only thee, but all the human species through Jesus Christ our Lord. "O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and power of God, how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! for of him, and through him, and for him are all things" To Him be glory eternal.

In the present case his goodness shines, for God has loved me before I was born. O what

grace! God himself has loved me in my fallen estate, in which I was wholly lost. O what mercy! God has loved me even when I was altogether unworthy, and that freely too O what love!

He has given me his well-beloved Son, and in giving him he has given me his paternal heart; and at the time that he took human nature, he became my parent, that by this parentage he might oblige himself to have a right to love and to have a care of me. I feel him, the just, for my offences and wickedness which he had taken to bear as his own, brought before the most righteous judgment-seat, where he himself alone paid the last penny of the dreadful debt of all the world. I behold him upon the cross deface and destroy the obligation that was against me, and after that, he entered once for all into the holy place by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption for me. Approach then now, O my soul, to the throne of grace, and adore this unspeakable love which has loved thee first. Love him eternally, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might, who has made thee to know by experience the great mysteries of his holy love, respecting all his creatures. Hallelujah! Amen.

O what an alteration from being a child of darkness to a child of light; now I know in

whom I have believed, and desire to consecrate myself to my Lord, my Sovereign Good, the remainder of my days.

My conversion made a great noise among the people, for they saw me praising and adoring my divine Saviour on all occasions, and before all company where I came, without exception, calling and exhorting each one to submit to the love of God, just as they found themselves, and although their sins were many and great, His grace was greater to receive and pardon, but we must come as we are, for He is the beginning and the end of the conversion of all the human species, and whosoever is not convertep by Him, and to Him, is not converted at all.

The French ministers were very uneasy at what they heard concerning me, doubting whether I was a true Protestant, and therefore they demanded a written confession of my faith. I told them paper would suffer any thing to be written upon it, truth or falsehood, but that I was not ashamed to confess with my mouth what I believed in my heart, and that if they would let me know when they would meet me together, I would be ready to appear before them to give them an account of my faith, and the wonders which the most Holy Trinity had wrought within me.

The time was fixed and I appeared before them. They asked me many questions, but we

could not agree, for they held predestination, and I held the restoration of all souls, because having myself been the chief of sinners, and that God, through Jesus Christ, by the efficacy of his Holy Spirit, had granted me mercy and the pardon of all my sins and had plucked me as a brand out of hell, I could not have a doubt but the whole world would be saved by the same power. They answered me that I must not take it ill—that they could not own me as a member of their church. I replied, that I was very well content to be cast out, and that my consolation was, that they were not able to blot my name out of the book of life.

Soon after I got acquainted with some persons who led a very retired life, having received a deep knowledge of themselves through grace. We sometimes met together, but we were soon persecuted with reproach.

After that I received a voice of grace inwardly to go and preach the gospel in France. I resisted it more than once or twice, fearing persecution, but I was struck with a sickness and had pain like the agony of death, was ready to die, and knowing it was because I had not hearkened to that voice that had called me to bear witness to the truth in France, I humbled myself before my God through Jesus Christ my Lord, asking pardon for my offences, and promising to submit myself to follow his voice, upon which I

was immediately healed, and grew more robust than I had ever been before. Then I heard his voice once more, calling me to go to France to preach the gospel, and I found myself obliged in my soul to follow the voice, though with fear and trembling.

I took passage at Dover for Calais, and immediately upon my arrival I began to preach and proclaim the good news in the market, even the eternal salvation by Jesus Christ within us, and that each one of us might be saved by pure grace, and that whosoever, knowing himself, feeling the burden of his iniquities, having recourse to Jesus Christ, resigning himself without reserve, with all his sins, even had he found himself in his damnable estate, should be delivered, and obtain the pardon of all his sins.

As soon as I had done, I was taken before a magistrate, who made me to know that my conduct was contrary to the statute of the king. I was then conducted to prison, where I had no sooner arrived than all the fear of persecution vanished; my soul was strengthened in the Lord Jesus, and I felt the love of my divine Saviour very near, accompanied with his divine light. After some days had past, I was brought before the justice, and being examined who I was and by what order I preached, I told him who I was, and that I was drawn by the special grace of my God in Jesus Christ, by the power of his Holy

Spirit, to teach the nations, and that for refusing to obey the voice of my God I was taken very sick. While they were examining me, there came in an old man with a white beard. All the justices saluted him. He said to them, "Have nothing to do with this person, for I have suffered much this night past on his account," and retired immediately.

I was then condemned to eight days imprisonment, (as it was the first time), and to be conducted by the servant of the magistrate out of the bounds of the city, letting me know that if I was found employed in the same manner a second time, my life would be in danger.

I was about 17 years of age when I began to preach in France. In this manner I employed two years in that kingdom, preaching the gospel in high and low Normandy, the country of my father, for he was born in the city of Rouen.

There were many ministers of us together: Monsr. Durant, de la Chevrette, Dumoulin, L'Acbar, and others. We met together in mountains and woods, to the number of 300, where God very often wrought great wonders by the power of the gospel, among men and women, and even boys and girls of the age of twelve or fifteen years, that did not even know how to read or write They were convinced by the power of grace and began to proclaim the gospel with a most marvellous strength of spirit, without any fear, being embraced by love divine.

We were many times taken prisoners during the two years, sometimes by means of our own brothers who would go and inform the soldiers in the marshalsey where we were met together.

Many were hanged, others whipped at the hands of the hangman and branded with a hot iron, all their goods confiscated, and they sent on board the galleys, but all that did not weaken us, but on the contrary, the grace of our divine love strengthened us to a wonder.

At last we were surrounded by a party of soldiers one day when we were assembled by the side of Dieppe, where many were taken prisoners, among whom was myself and a Mr. Durant, a young man about 24 years of age, of Genoa.

After a month's imprisonment we were condemned to die—he to be hanged and I to have my head cut off. We were conducted together to the place of execution. He sung the 116th Psalm when on the ladder, and died joyfully.

I was then conducted to the scaffold and my eyes were ordered to be bound to prevent my seeing, but upon my earnest request that was omitted.

I then fell upon my knees, and praying the Lord that he would not require my blood at their hands, as they knew not what they did, my soul was filled with exceeding joy. The executioner bound my hands, and while he was

employed in so doing a courier arrived from the king, which was Louis XV, with a reprieve for the criminal. Immediately the joy of my heart was gone and darkness entered into my soul. I was then reconducted to prison at Paris, where I was confined sometime before I was liberated through the intercession of the Queen.

Many things happened to me during my exile in France and the time of my confinement. One may easily discover here that the grace of God never leaves those who trust in Him and are faithful until death

After my releasement I retired into Germany, where I began to learn the language with great difficulty. I found many souls who were convinced by grace and who led a very retired life among the French refugees at Bulin, Magdeburg, Brandenburg, Brunswick in the Palatinate, Hamburg, Altona, Stade, Gluckstadt, Bremen, the country of Hanover in Flanders, Brabant, the low land of Holland, the country of the Waldenses and many other places.

I found work all around—souls who desired to be saved. I had also a large acquaintance among the nobility in Germany and Holland. We had a large communion of brethren and sisters in Jesus Christ our Lord.

I was wholly employed in traveling from place to place, in visiting the brethren and preaching to the nations in the German, French and Dutch

languages. There were many assemblies of brethren all around. In some places we had liberty, and where that could not be had publicly we met secretly in particular families, but nevertheless grace wrought wonders in convincing souls and leading them to a real deep knowledge of themselves and of the damnable estate into which all men are plunged by nature, for none can obtain salvation without being first damned in themselves.

I was much concerned about the salvation of souls, and their estate deeply affected me. I had also an acquaintance with a company of gentry, who dwelt together near Siegen, some of them were married, but only dwelt together as brethren and sisters—among them the baron of Peuchink, the lords of Fleishbein, and the count of Marsey, who was employed in writing books, which were printed in French and German. They led a very retired life, filled with love and friendship to all the world, without bound, and were very charitable both to friends and enemies.

Our acquaintance with each other happened in a wonderful manner. One day brother Marsey had a vision concerniug me, when I had arrived in the Palatinate, being about twenty leagues from him. I was drawn by grace, being engaged in prostrating myself in spirit before the presence of the most Holy Trinity, and hav-

ing a vision, I discovered a marvellous throne with seven foot stools, upon each foot-stool were two candlesticks of gold, and upon the throne I saw a great table with seven candlesticks of gold placed in a round figure upon it; then I saw many with robes whiter than snow, who stood up near the candlesticks of gold on each side of the foot-stools and round the table. Immediately the candlesticks were lighted and chairs were brought that each one might sit down, then they began to sing a new song to the honor of the most high, so that my soul was lost in admiration: then altogether bending their knees, the whole company adored the most Holy Trinity; the vision vanished in an instant, and I came to myself.

Some little time after my brother Marsey sent a letter to me, written after this manner.

My well beloved and dear brother in Jesus Christ our Lord, the most Holy Trinity discovers many wonders to his children, who are rooted upon the rock of deliverence, and have their eyes of faith fixed upon their Sovereign Good: he honors them with his universal presence, and embraces them with the fire of heavenly love; as I have been favored with the consolation of seeing you in his holy presence, I hope you will not deny that communion in the body that we have had together in spirit, to the praise of the glory of our God, through Jssus

Christ our Lord, by the efficacy of His Holy Spirit. Thus wishes and dwells for ever, Marsey your Brother, united by the grace of God, Amen.

After I had passed about 18 years in Germany and Holland, I became sickly of a consumptive disorder, occasioned by being greatly concerned for the salvation of souls, and much disquieted because the greatest part by far walked in the ways of perverseness, and neglected their conversion which caused me great trouble, and I took it so to heart that I believed my happiness would be incomplete, while one creature remained miserable. Sometimes I was a little comforted within my grace in some manner, but that did not last long.

I dwelt at that time in the country with the brethren near the city of Mons, an Haguiauth near the borders of France, in the Emperor's dominions.

My fever increased in such a manner as reduced me almost to a skeleton, so that they were obliged to feed me as an infant.

While I lay in this weak situation, I was favored through grace with many visions: in one it appeared to me that I was conducted into a fine plain, filled with all kinds of fruit trees, agreeable both to the sight and smell, loaded with all kinds of the most delicious fruits, which came to my mouth, and satisfied me as with a river of pleasure: same time I beheld the inhabitants,

they were beautiful beyond expression, clothed in garments as white as snow. They were filled with humility, and their friendship and love was toward all beings; they saluted me with the most profound reverence, and most lovely air, saying to me with a voice of love, which penetrated through me. "Dear soul take courage, be comforted, for in a little time you shall see the wonders of our God, in the restoration of all the human species, without exception."

The weakness of my body so increased that I was certain of dying. I exhorted my dear brethren to be faithful unto death; to be steadfast, immoveable, and to be always turning inward with an enlivening faith, to behold with a fixed attention the Lamb of God, with believing eyes, and to hearken to his eternal word within them, and that then they should receive of the fullness of Christ's grace upon grace, by which they should be strengthened to abide steadfast unto the end.

As I had communed with many assemblies of brethren, but in particular with that connected with my dear brother Marsey; the brethren there had a vision of my death, and sent brother Marsey to see me.

When he arrived he found me in the agonies of death; he embraced me with a kiss of peace and love, and saluted me in the name of the brethren, who recommended themselves to me,

and desired that I would remember them before the throne of God and the Lamb.

He then took leave of me, and I felt myself die by degrees, and exactly at midnight I was separated from the body, and saw the people occupied in washing it, according to the custom of the country. I had a great desire to be freed from the sight of my body, and immediately I was drawn up as in a cloud, and beheld great wonders where I passed, impossible to be written or expressed. I quickly came to a place which appeared to my eyes as a level plain, so extensive that my sight was not able to reach its limits, filled with all sorts of delightful fruit trees, agreeable to behold, and which sent forth such fragrant odors that all the air was filled as with incense In this place I found that I had two guardians, one at my right hand, and the other at my left, exceedingly beautiful beyond expression, whose boundless friendship and love seemed to penetrate through all my inward parts....They had wings, and resembled angels, having shining bodies and white garments.

He that was at my right hand came before me, and said: "My dear soul and my dear brother take courage, the most Holy Trinity hath favored you to be comforted with an everlasting and universal consolation, by discovering to you how, and in what manner he will restore all his

creatures without exception, to the praise of his glory, and their eternal salvation; and you shall be witness of this, and shall rejoice in singing and triumph with all the children of God, therefore as a reward for the friendship and love that you have borne for your neighbors, on whose accounts you had many extreme griefs, and shed many tears, which shall all be wiped away from your eyes by God himself, he shall turn all your griefs to exceeding great gladness," Then he took his place at my right hand. Afler that the second guardian, who was at my left hand; appeared before me, and spoke thus, "My dear soul, my dear brother be of good cheer, thou shalt be strengthened and comforted after your griefs, with an universal and eternal consolation. You must be prepared to pass through the seven habitations of the damned—be of good courage and prepare yourself to feel something of their sufferings, but be turned inward deeply during the time, and you shall therefore be preserved." Then he took his place at my left hand. Immediately we were lifted up in the air, and sometime after we arrived in a dark and obscure place, where nothing but weeping, lamentation, and gnashing of teeth could be understood. A dreadful place, as being the repository of all sorts of damned souls, under condemnation with the torments, pains, griefs, and sufferings which

their sins had merited, for each one had his works to follow him to death. All iniquities and sins were reduced to seven classes of habitations; there was an eternal confusion there, that which one made the other destroyed.

The duellist in his fire of anger, burns against his enemy, and they pass as a flame and fire-brand of hell, one through the other.

You might see fornicators, idolaters, thieves, adulterers, the covetous, drunkards, slanderers, ravishers, &c., each laboring and being employed with his sins and iniquities. One might also see all kinds of conditions of men, divines, deputies, controverters, advocates, judges, lawyers, and in a word, one might discover whatsoever any of them had committed upon earth. In each habitation, I discovered that those who were abased and that appeared sorrowful for their sins, were separated from the others of their sort that were not yet so. I was then conducted into each of the seven habitations of the damned, where I knew one I had been acquainted with upon earth. I discovered also that he had an habitation among the damned, and that they were able to see the elect from that habitation where he was, but were not able to pass through, because there was a great gulf between them, so that all are obliged to dwell where they are.

It is impossible to describe my condition, as I

had great compassion towards the sufferers, inasmuch as I had part of their sufferings.

After we had passed through we were lifted up some distance from the place, where we reposed ourselves, and a messenger was sent to us, who watered or refreshed us as with a river of pleasure, saying, eat my beloved, and drink my friends, to refresh yourselves after all your toils and pains. My dear soul, and my dear brother, (addressing himself to me) the most Holy Trinity always works wonders in all times within his poor creatures without exception, and he will order for a time, and half a time, that you shall return into your earthly tabernacle, to publish and to proclaim to the people of the world an universal gospel, that shall restore in its time all the human species without exception to its honor, and to the glory of its most Holy Trinity Hallelujah.

Beholding the messenger attentively, I discovered that he had a most glorious body, dressed in a robe whiter than snow, filled with the most exalted love and friendship, joined with the deepest humility which penetrated me through and through, and suddenly there was heard a great multitude of the heavenly host, and the messenger said, as he flew to join the same, with a sweet voice—"Holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and who is to come."

The multitude was innumerable, and there was one who surpassed in grandeur, brightness, beauty, majesty, magnificence and excellence, all the others, even the Son of the living God, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power—when he had by himself purged our sins—sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

As the multitude approached the glory caused us to fall down, and to adore in spirit and in truth the Son of the living God, who marched in the midst of the multitude.

After they had passed us, we were lifted up, and caused to follow them, for the air carried us the way they went, in a different manner than we went before. O, the wonders of our God! When we arrived in the place of the seven habitations of the redeemed, we could perceive no more darkness, obscurity, pain, torments, lamentations, afflictions, nor gnashing of teeth, all were still and quiet, and an agreeable sweetness appeared through the whole. Then all the heavenly host shouted with one voice and said, "An eternal and everlasting deliverance, an eternal and everlasting restoration, universal and everlasting restitution of all things." Then all the multitude adored the most Holy Trinity, and sang the song of the Lamb, even the song of triumph for the victory

gained by him, in the most harmonious manner, and at the end, all the multitude being upon their knees, said with a loud voice, "Great and marvellous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, O King of Saints." Presently they passed through the seven habitations of the damned, and a multitude was delivered from each, being clothed in white robes, they followed the heavenly host, praising and glorifying the Most High for their deliverance; one might know them amongst the others: they all retired by a different way than that by which they came. The messenger then came and conducted us into a most wonderful place, and ordered my two guardians to conduct me into five celestial mansions where the Lord's elect abide, and then to re-conduct me to dwell yet a time, and half a time in my earthly habitation, and to preach to the lower world the universal everlasting gospel, and that the most Holy Trinity has a pure, universal love towards all the human race without exception, and to each one in particular; then turning himself towards me he said, "My dear soul, my dear brother, thou shalt be favored of the most Holy Trinity to be conducted by the guardians, who shall never leave thee: when thou shalt have need of their counsel, thou needest but to call them, and they shall be day and night present at thy

service; they shall conduct thee into five of the heavenly mansions at this time, where thou shalt partake in a certain degree of the celestial glory as much as thy spirit shall be able to receive, as not being yet sanctified and purified sufficiently; and then thou shalt be re-conducted into thine earthly tabernacle for a time and half a time, and shalt preach to the lower world the universal everlasting gospel, and that the most Holy Trinity has a pure universal love towards all the human race without exception, and towards each one in particular. The fountain of grace bless and preserve thee, and cause his face to shine upon and in thee, and enlighten thine understanding both in time and in eternity. Amen." Our knees bending of their own accord, he laid his hand upon my head and blessed me, and immediately took wing, and swiftly fled away.

After that my guardian conducted me into five celestial habitations where I discovered many wonders: some had greater brightness, glory and majesty than others, and as the places were, so were the inhabitants; some were clothed in garments whiter than snow; others had transparent bodies, and others again had white bodies resembling crystal. It is impossible to express these things. They were moved by boundless burning love, rising up and then plunging themselves into the deepest

humility; all their motions were penetrating, being filled with love and friendship. Their actions and manners were strengthened and animated with brightness, being filled with light as with the rays of the sun; it was the fire of heavenly love, which by inflaming all their hearts, caused them all to burn in the same spirit. They have no need of any way of speaking there, but the language and motions of eternal and universal love without words for their actions, their motions spake more than all words. I was then conducted into five habitations of the elect. At the first a great multitude came before us with songs to the honor and glory of the Most High, and of the victory gained over the damned. They received us with triumph, great zeal, love and friendship, saluting us with profound humility, and conducting us into a large room; there was a great table covered and furnished with all sorts of fruit, not only pleasant to behold. but also exceeding by delicious to the taste.

In the mean time while we were taking our repast, the celestial multitudes formed songs, and sang psalms of praise and thanksgiving to the most Holy Trinity. After that we were conducted into all the five celestial habitations, (that I was to see) where I saw many wonders impossible to decsribe. First, many thrones lifted up of inexpressible beauty and magnifi-

and desired that I would remember them before the throne of God and the Lamb.

He then took leave of me, and I felt myself die by degrees, and exactly at midnight I was separated from the body, and saw the people occupied in washing it, according to the custom of the country. I had a great desire to be freed from the sight of my body, and immediately I was drawn up as in a cloud, and beheld great wonders where I passed, impossible to be written or expressed. I quickly came to a place which appeared to my eyes as a level plain so extensive that my sight was not able to reach its limits, filled with all sorts of delightful fruit trees, agreeable to behold, and sending forth such fragrant odors that all the air was filled as with incense. In this place I found that I had two guardians, one at my right hand and the other at my left, exceedingly beautiful beyond expression, whose boundless friendship and love seemed to penetrate through all my inward parts. They had wings and resembled angels, having shining bodies and white garments.

The one that was at my right hand came before me, and said: "My dear soul and my dear brother take courage, the most Holy Trinity has favored you to be comforted with an everlasting and universal consolation, by discovering to you how and in what manner he will re-

store all his creatures, without exception, to the praise of his glory and their eternal salvation; and you shall be witness of this and shall rejoice in singing and triumph with all the children of God, as a reward for the friendship and love that you have borne for your neighbors, on whose account you had many extreme griefs and shed many tears, which shall be all wiped away from your eyes by God himself, who shall turn all your griefs to exceeding great gladness." Then he took his place at my right hand. After that the second guardian, who was at my left hand, appeared before me and spoke thus: "My dear soul, my dear brother be of good cheer, thou shalt be strengthened and comforted after your griefs with an universal and eternal consolation. You must be prepared to pass through the seven habitations of the damned; be of good courage and prepare yourself to feel something of their sufferings, but be turned inward deeply during the time and you shall therefore be preserved." Then he took his place at my left hand. Immediately we were lifted up into the air, and sometime after we arrived in a dark and obscure place, where nothing but weeping, lamentation and gnashing of teeth could be understood—a dreadful place, being the repository of all sorts of damned souls, under condemnation with the torments, pains, griefs and suf-

ferings which their sins had merited, for each one had his works to follow him after death. All iniquities and sins were reduced to seven classes of habitations; there was an eternal confusion there—that which one made the other destroyed.

The duellist in his fire of anger, burned against his enemy, and they pass as a flame and fire brand of hell, one through the other.

You might see fornicators, idolaters, thieves, adulterers, the coretous, drunkards, slanderers, ravishers, &c., each laboring and being employed with his sins and iniquities. One might also see all kinds of conditions of men, divines, deputies, controverters, advocates, judges, lawyers, and, in a word, one might discover whatsoever any of them had committed upon earth. In each habitation I discovered that those who were abased and who appeared sorrowful for their sins, were separated from the others of their sort that were not yet so. I was then conducted into each of the seven habitations of the damned, where I knew one I had been acquainted with upon earth. I discovered also that he had an habitation among the damned, and that they were able to see the elect from that habitation where he was, but were not able to pass through because there was a great gulf between them, so that all were obliged to dwell where they were.

It is impossible to describe my condition as I

had great compassion towards the sufferers inasmuch as I had part of their sufferings.

After we had passed through we were lifted up some distance from the place, where we reposed ourselves, and a messenger was sent to us who watered or refreshed us as with a river of pleasure, saying, "Eat my beloved and drink my friends, to refresh yourselves after all your toils and pains. My dear soul and my dear brother, (addressing himself to me), the most Holy Trinity works wonders at all times within his poor creatures without exception, and he will order for a time, and half a time, that you shall return into your earthly tabernacle to publish and to proclaim to the people of the world an universal gospel that shall restore in its time all the human species without exception to its honor and to the glory of the most Holy Trinity. Hallelujah."

Beholding the messenger attentively, I discovered that he had a most glorious body, dressed in a robe whiter than snow, filled with the most exalted love and friendship, joined with the deepest humility which penetrated me through and through, and suddenly there was heard a great multitude of the heavenly host, and the messenger said, as he flew to join the same, with a sweet voice: "Holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and who is to come."

The multitude were innumerable and there

was one who surpassed in grandeur, brightness, beauty, majesty, magnificence and excellence, all the others—even the Son of the living God, being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, who, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high.

As the multitude approached, the glory caused us to fall down and to adore in spirit and in truth the son of the living God, who marched in the midst of the multitude.

After they had passed us we were lifted up and caused to follow them, for the air carried us the way they went, in a different manner from what we went before. O the wonders of our God! When we arrived in the place of the seven habitations of the damned we could perceive no more darkness, obscurity, pain, torments, lamentations, afflictions, nor gnashing of teeth, all were still and quiet, and an agreeable sweetness appeared through the whole. Then all the heavenly host shouted with one voice and said, "An eternal and everlasting deliverance, an eternal and everlasting restoration, universal and everlasting restitution of all things." Then all the multitude adored the most Holy Trinity and sung the song of the Lamb, even the song of triumph for the victory gained by Him, in the most harmonious man

ner, and at the end, all the multitude being upon their knees, said with a loud voice, "Great and marvellous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, O King of saints." Presently they passed through the seven habitations of the damned, and a multitude were delivered from each, being clothed in white robes, they followed the heavenly host, praising and glorifying the Most High for their deliverance. One might know them amongst the others—they all retired by a different way from that by which they came. The messenger then came and conducted us into a most wonderful place and ordered my two guardians to conduct me into five celestial mansions, where the Lord's elect abide, and then to re-conduct me to dwell yet a time and half a time in my earthly habitation, to preach to the lower world the universal everlasting gospel, and that the most Holy Trinity has a pure universal love towards all the human race, without exception, and to each one in particular; then turning himself towards me he said, "My dear soul, my dear brother, thou shalt be favored of the most Holy Trinity to be conducted by the guardians, who shall never leave thee; when thou shalt have need of their counsel, thou needest but to call them and they shall be day and night present at thy service; they shall conduct thee into five of the heavenly mansions at this time,

where thou shalt partake in a certain degree of the celestial glory—as much as thy spirit shall be able to receive, as not being yet sanctified and purified sufficiently; and then thou shalt be reconducted into thine earthly tabernacle for a time and half a time, and shalt preach to the lower world the universal everlasting gospel, and that the most Holy Trinity has a pure universal love towards all the human race without exception, and towards each one in particular. The fountain of grace bless and preserve thee, and cause His face to shine upon and in thee, and enlighten thine understanding both in time and in eternity, Amen." Our knees bending of their own accord, he laid his hand upon my head and blessed me, and immediately took wing and swiftly fled away.

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manners were strengthened and animated with brightness, being filled with light as with the rays of the sun. It was the fire of heavenly love, which by inflaming all their hearts, caused them all to burn in the same spirit. They had no need of any way of speaking there but the language and motions of eternal and universal love without words for their actions; their motions speak more than all words. I was then conducted into five habitations of the elect. At the first a great multitude came before us with songs to the honor and glory of the Most High, and of the victory gained over the damned. They received us with triumph, great zeal, love and friendship, saluting us with profound humility, and conducting us into a large room; there was a great table covered and furnished with all sorts of fruit, not only pleasant to behold but also exceedingly delicious to the taste.

In the mean time while we were taking our repast, the celestial multitudes formed songs and sung psalms of praise and thanksgiving to the most Holy Trinity. After that we were conducted into all the five celestial habitations, (that I was to see), where I saw many wonders impossible to describe: First, many thrones lifted up of inexpressible beauty and magnificence; upon one of these thrones I beheld the Royal High priest, surrounded with exceeding

great brightness, and clothed in most excellent majesty, being employed in kind intercession before his Father for all the human species, pleading the sufficiency of his blood-shedding to deliver and sanctify a thousand such worlds as ours. All the elect, with the heavenly spirits, joined their intercession with that of their Royal High Priest, the only chief king, being reconcilers, saviours, and restorers in the same spirit. This mutual intercession appeared like incense ascending on high into the sanctuary of the Lord. Over against the throne I discovered Adam and Eve rejoicing in the only mediator between God and man, and adoring together the most Holy Trinity for the deliverance of their children out of the great miseries and eternal condemnation into which their sin and fall had brought them, and upon their bended knees adoring the only mediator for the intercession he makes in behalf of mankind. I also beheld a multitude of spirits flying and enflamed with the fire of heavenly love, while we adored, humbled in nothingness, rendering our religious homage to the Most High for his intercession and the deliverance of all mankind. Then my guardian, who was at my right hand, coming before me, said thus, "Dear soul, my brother, do you see these spirits flying, who came in great multitudes and who are vanished in the spirit of love and gratitude, humbled

and self-annihilated as it were, adoring before the throne of grace, and praying the Saviour for the intercessions he has made for them. These were lately delivered from the infernal prisons; it is for them that the tincture of the blood of Jesus Christ has been shed even to the last drop, notwithstanding they had dwelt a long time shut up in the place of the damned, under the power of the second death, and have passed thro' many agonies, pains and tribulations." Upon that I perceived that Adam and Eve approached, and Adam spoke to me after this manner: "My dear brother, rejoice with universal and eternal joy, as you are favored with the heavenly visions; it is in this manner that our adorable Royal High Priest, mediator and intercessor, shall restore all my descendants to the glory of our God and to their eternal and universal salvation; for the kingdom of eternal love has power sufficient to draw all mankind out of their bondage, and to exclaim and say, O death, where is thy sting, &c. But my dear brother this love of our God in Jesus Christ, by the power of his Holy Spirit, shall not only gain the victory over all the human species, but also surmount or overflow the kingdom of Satan entirely, with all the principalities of the fallen angels and shall bring them back to their first glory, which they have had in the beginning. I will make all things new, said

the Lord of hosts, and the end shall return into its beginning. O my Lord and my God, what great wonders hast thou caused to pass before mine eyes! Who am I, O my God? Dust and ashes, an ungrateful and rebellious creature. I should not dare to lift mine eyes towards the heavens if the blood of Jesus Christ thy son did not plead for me. My soul rejoices, is glad, and shouts for joy. O my God, whom I adore, love and respect; before whom I desire to be without ceasing, self annihilated at thy feet. O my God and my love, the seraphims and cherubims burning with the fire of thy heavenly love, adore and honor thee; give me thy grace also, O my God, that I may be consumed before thee; while I sing the majesty, glory and memory of God, who has created and redeemed me. I would praise thee incessantly, not in shadow or figure, but in reality and truth. I would continue devoted to thee, and always be swallowed up in the ocean of love without a wish to leave it.

Being in this manner conducted into five celestial habitations I discovered many mysteries, saw many miracles, and beheld the wonders of the most Holy Trinity among the children, the elect, the heavenly inhabitants, and perceived how some surpassed others in brightness, light, splendor, majesty, friendship, love, humiliation and self-abasement, concerning which things

my tongue is too feeble to speak, and my pen to write. I adore the marvellous ways of my God with all the happy spirits.

Many thrones, palaces, edifices, temples and buildings were erected in all parts, with fruit trees intermixed, rivers of pleasure gliding along through the celestial land which appeared like a garden of heaven, even the paradise of God. It is the court of the King of kings, and Lord of lords, which the eye has not seen nor the ear heard, and which the hearts of men have not received; it is the celestial globe where the New Jerusalem or Mount Sion is placed, where the bosom of Abraham is, where the suf ferers who came out of their tribulations are refreshed and rejoice forgetting all their miseries; having come out of their purifications, they are made to rejoice in Zion. O magnificent globe! O thou city of the Great God! Stately city of this place! where shall a mortal find convenient phrases to lisp out a little of thy glory and splendor? It is the glory and magnificence of the most Holy Trinity, where God is pleased to manifest himself in his pomp and beauty. The blessed angels there have their employment in serving God—they compose the court of the Great King. O, my God, I am not able to express that which penetrates me, of the grandeur, magnificence, splendor, pomp and majesty of thy dwellings, and of the inhabitants

of those transparent places. Hallelujah and victory forever. Amen.

Then my guardian took me up and re-conducted me to the house from whence I came, where I perceived the people assembled, and discovering my body in the coffin, I was re-united with the same, and found myself lodged within my earthly tabernacle; and coming to myself I knew my dear brother Marsey and many others, who gave me an account of my being twenty-five hours in the coffin and seventeen hours before they put me in the coffin, which altogether made forty-two hours. To me they seemed as many years. Beginning then to preach the universal gospel, I was presently put into prison, but soon set at liberty again. I visited all my brethren, preaching the gospel and taking leave of them all because that my God and Sovereign Good called me to go to America and preach the gospel there. I took my departure for the same in the 38th year of age, and it is forty one years since I first arrived here. The 28th of July next, 1732, I shall be 79 years of age. Blessed be the name of the Lord forever.

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